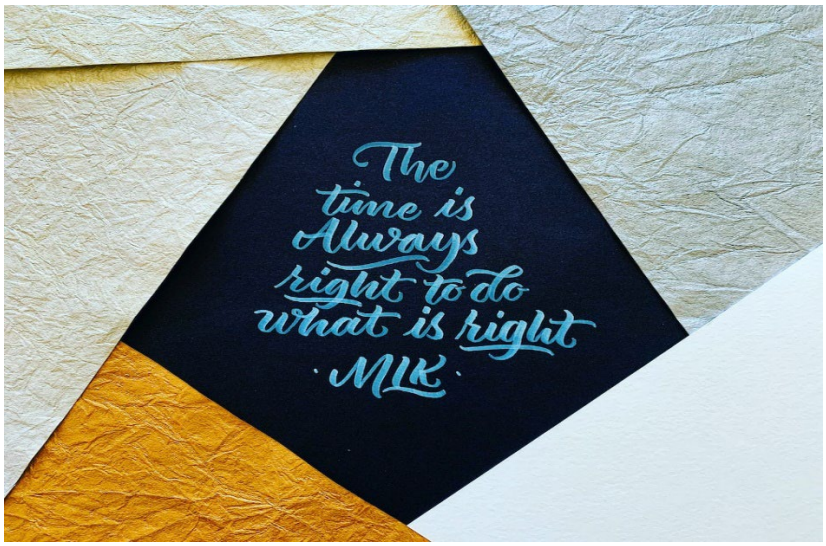
First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice



January 15, 2023
10:00 am

"All That We Are"
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
2nd Sunday After Epiphany

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Hybrid Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **VISHNU SRINIVAS**
"Jesus Shall Reign" Arr, Cindy Berry

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **ELLIE GUSMAN**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader is **Ellie Gusman**. Greeters are **Donna Eyster** (Roomie); **Jeanette Sherrill** (Zoom)
  - The Greeters will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"Star Child"
174 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsive **ELLIE GUSMAN**

Leader: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember you have created us all in your image and in your likeness.

People: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

Leader: You have comforted us through racism, segregation, stripped identities and unjust laws.

People: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

Leader: God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved.

People: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

Leader: We gather today remembering your presence among us and your call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Draw the Circle Wide"
123 SING

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Psalm 40:1-11** **ELLIE GUSMAN**

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 1:1-9** **PASTOR LIZ**

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Amen, Amen"
161 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"All That We Are"** **PASTOR LIZ**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

God of justice and mercy, you call us to speak prophetically amid difficult times.
We admit sometimes we are unwilling to give up our comfort and safety
to follow where your voice leads us.
When we use excuses like, we can't find the right words, or the moment has passed,
or it would have been rude to say… Forgive us!
Give us the courage to join the movement towards racial justice
by speaking your words of justice, peace, and love, even when we are fearful.
Guide us as we seek to find new ways to follow your call of truth-telling.
In the name of the one who is the Word of the love we speak, Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING **PASTOR LIZ**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Please place in-person offerings in the gold offering place on the table by the door.

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"This Is My [Father's] World "** **VISHNU SRINIVAS**
Arr, Cindy Berry

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"Take My Gifts" v,2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **ELLIE GUSMAN**

We are ever aware of our limitations but continue to dream the impossible because of our faith in your power.
We dedicate our lives to changing the "normalcy" that continues to plague our communities.
The only normalcy we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all of God's children.
The only normalcy we will settle for is the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice.*

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
593 NCH

BENEDICTION *Unison with microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

We leave empowered by the fresh winds of change and the dream before us, to be God's hands, feet and heart in this world today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE Please remain seated **VISHNU SRINIVAS**
"O, Zion Haste" Arr, Cindy Berry

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

*Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Vishnu Srinivas, Accompanist

Jenn Zibbell, MID Ministry Intern
Ellie Gusman, Worship Leader
Greeters, Tad Wysor (Roomie) & Barbara Garland (Zoomie)
Marty Kleino, Usher/Bell Ringer

YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Worship Address:
111 S. Wallace Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Mailing Address:
PO Box 980413
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
734-482-6980
ypsiucc.org

ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Photo by Darold Pinnock on Unsplash
- **Call to Worship, Disciples Prayer, Prayer of Dedication, Benediction:** www.ucc.org/worship-way/ adapted
- **Hymn Profiles:** *New Century Hymnal Companion,* Pilgrim Press (1999)
- **Parts of this service quote from** *Our God is Marching On,* and *Letter from Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) earned two degrees at Atlanta University and became a public-school teacher and principal in Jacksonville, FL. He wrote this text for a celebration commemorating Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1921; it was performed by school children. **James Weldon Johnson**, a multitalented poet, lawyer, and diplomat, served as the 1st national executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and this anthem became the organization's official song. He also founded the first African American newspaper, the *Daily American.*

John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) composed this music, called LIFT EVERY VOICE, for his brother's text. He collected and published a number of important collections of African American songs and hymn tunes, while also performing, composing and directing musicals. He studied at the New England Conservatory of Music and Europe. From 1896-1908 he was supervisor of music for the Jacksonville, FL public school system. His lifelong pursuit was collecting African American music.

Lift Every Voice and Sing is recognized at the *Black National Anthem.*

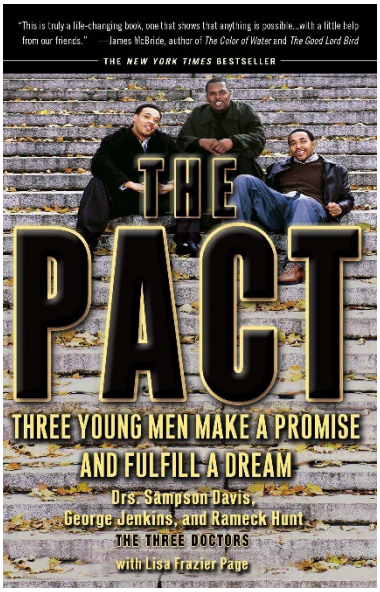
ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Pastor Liz, 734-358-6108

Worship Next Week: Worship Leader is Kiki Fugate; Greeters are Ellie Gusman (Zoom) **and Donna Eyster** (Room).

Local events to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 16th.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY hosts Dr. Sampson Davis, MD, Keynote Speaker.


"This is truly a life-changing book, one that shows that anything is possible...with a little help from our friends."
—James McBride, author of The Color of Water and The Good Lord Bird
THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE PACT
THREE YOUNG MEN MAKE A PROMISE AND FULFILL A DREAM
Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt
THE THREE DOCTORS
with Lisa Frazier Page

Dr. Sampson Davis was raised as the fifth of six children in Newark, one of New Jersey's poorest cities. As a child, Dr. Davis grew up in cramped living quarters, surrounded by fragmented families, crime, and drugs. Still, he was a good student, able to strike the fragile balance between being smart and socially acceptable on the streets. It was this combination of skills, Dr. Davis says, that was most critical to his survival. While attending University High School in Newark, Dr. Davis met Dr. Rameck Hunt and Dr. George Jenkins, two fellow students who together made a promise to become doctors. Dr. Davis and his two childhood friends each successfully fulfilled their pact and today Dr. Davis is a board-certified Emergency Medicine Physician.

Monday, Jan.16, 2023, 10-11, Dr. Davis will discuss **The Pact,** written with Dr. Hunt and Dr. Jenkins.

Facilitators for the book discussion: Dr. John Staunton and Dr. Doris Fields

Join Zoom Meeting

ID:87118281604

Passcode: 960732

(US) 1-309-205-3325

MLK President's Luncheon and Keynote Address: 11:30-1:30
Student Center Ballroom (Live Streamed)

The 37th Annual MLK President's Luncheon will take place on MLK Day in the Student Center. Doors open at 11 a.m. with lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. Our distinguished speaker will deliver the keynote address.

Celebrate MLK Jr. Day with YDL! (Ypsilanti District Library)

January 3, 2023

Print PDF

Monday, January 16 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an annual celebration honoring Dr. King's accomplishments for the Civil Rights Movement. At History.com article titled, "The Fight for Martin Luther King Jr. Day" says of King: "[He] was the first modern private citizen to be honored with a federal holiday, and for many familiar with his non-violent leadership of the civil rights movement, it made sense to celebrate him.

How did MLK Jr. Day become a national holiday?

Four days after King's 1968 assassination, Michigan Congressman and fellow Civil Rights activist, John Conyers, Congressman from Detroit, introduced a bill on the House floor to create a federal holiday honoring the late Dr. King. The bill was largely ignored, but that didn't deter Conyers from reintroducing the bill each congressional term.

Finally, in the 1980s, with the 15th anniversary of King's death, the 20th anniversary on the March on Washington, and the popularity of Stevie Wonder's hit "happy Birthday" about MLK Jr., interest in honoring Dr. King's legacy grew. In 1983, Conyers' bill finally became law, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy was finally celebrated.

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY EVENTS-

YDL's Superior branch, 1900 N. Harris Rd. in Superior Township, local artist, Akili Jackson, will perform an interactive and family-friendly concert of spoken word and hip-hop. There will be a display of Dr. King related historical records from the National Archive. We will also make buttons with vintage designs from Civil Rights movement marches and have a kids' craft.

YDL's Whittaker branch, 5577 Whittaker Rd. in Ypsilanti Township, will host a jazz concert called "All Lives Stand Up" by Sean Dobbins and his band at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

YDL's Michigan Avenue branch, 229 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti, will host a "Hats for Homeless Persons" day of service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Patrons are invited to make hats to distribute to Ypsilanti's Hope Clinic and Ann Arbor's Delonis Center. Later that evening, from 6-8 p.m., the Michigan Avenue branch will sponsor a "Young Black Writers" showcase featuring the poetry and fiction of three local Black authors.

More information about all of **YDL's MLK Day** events can be found here.

Weekly Ypsi UCC Community Discernment Gatherings Resume on Mondays at 7:00 pm on Zoom beginning January 23, 2023

> *When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them*. Jesus in Matthew 18:20
>
> *Liminal space is that space that human beings hate to occupy…where the biblical God is continually taking us.* Richard Rohr

Our on-going Zoom Community Discernment Gatherings will resume on Monday nights at 7:00 pm after the recent Advent/Christmas/Epiphany "pause" beginning on January 23, 2023. Many thanks to Rev. LeAnn Seto for providing copies of the United Methodist Church 2017 Annual Conference handout summarizing the key points of Susan Beaumont's ***Leading in a Liminal Season.*** This outline is a wonderful support tool for understanding the dynamics we are currently experiencing as we "Lead with Prescence" through this season of ambiguity and disorientation in the life of our church. Roomies can pick up a copy at the church by the door.

Zoomies, please send Pastor Liz an email **(lizlarrivee@gmail.com)** if you would like a copy, and she will mail one to you via the USPS.

Please bring your thoughts about "What makes us a church?" (vs. another type of non-profit, community organization, club, or volunteer group) to the January 23 7:00 pm Zoom gathering. We will be reviewing our most recent Ypsi UCC "Mission Statement(s)" as a launch point for our discussion. Thanks to all who are contributing their time, talents, and love to gathering weekly on Mondays 7:00 pm (Community Discernment Gatherings) and/or bi-weekly on Wednesdays 7:00 pm beginning January 18 (Engaging Christian Contemplative Practices) as we listen for the Holy Spirit's still speaking voice calling us toward our shared ministry future together.

Sunday, January 29th Tad Wysor will share some of his experience from attending the launch of the Gamaliel Race and Power Institute. *After nearly a decade of studying the effects of institutional racism and developing organizing strategies to mitigate its impact on low income communities, the Network is making a significant pivot,* said Ana Garcia-Ashley, Gamaliel's second Executive Director, the first woman of color, and an immigrant to lead a faith-based community organizing network. "The Gamaliel Race and Power Institute will formalize our enduring place in the public arena as a leader in racial equity work, while fulfilling our commitment to live into our transformational narrative and our long-term agenda of being an anti-racist organization that fights for racial equity on every level and across every racial and ethnic identity."

Thank you, Tad, for bringing this experience to us and for your enduring commitment to community organizing, most recently with WeROC. Your faith and dedication shine brightly among us.

Church Council meets on Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30pm on Zoom. All are welcome!

Annual Meeting: **Mark your calendars and save the date!** The Annual Meeting of the Ypsilanti First Congregational United Church of Christ has been called for Sunday, February 19, 2023, immediately following worship.

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night chaplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center's ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, "That They All Shall Be One", Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center's student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with

Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

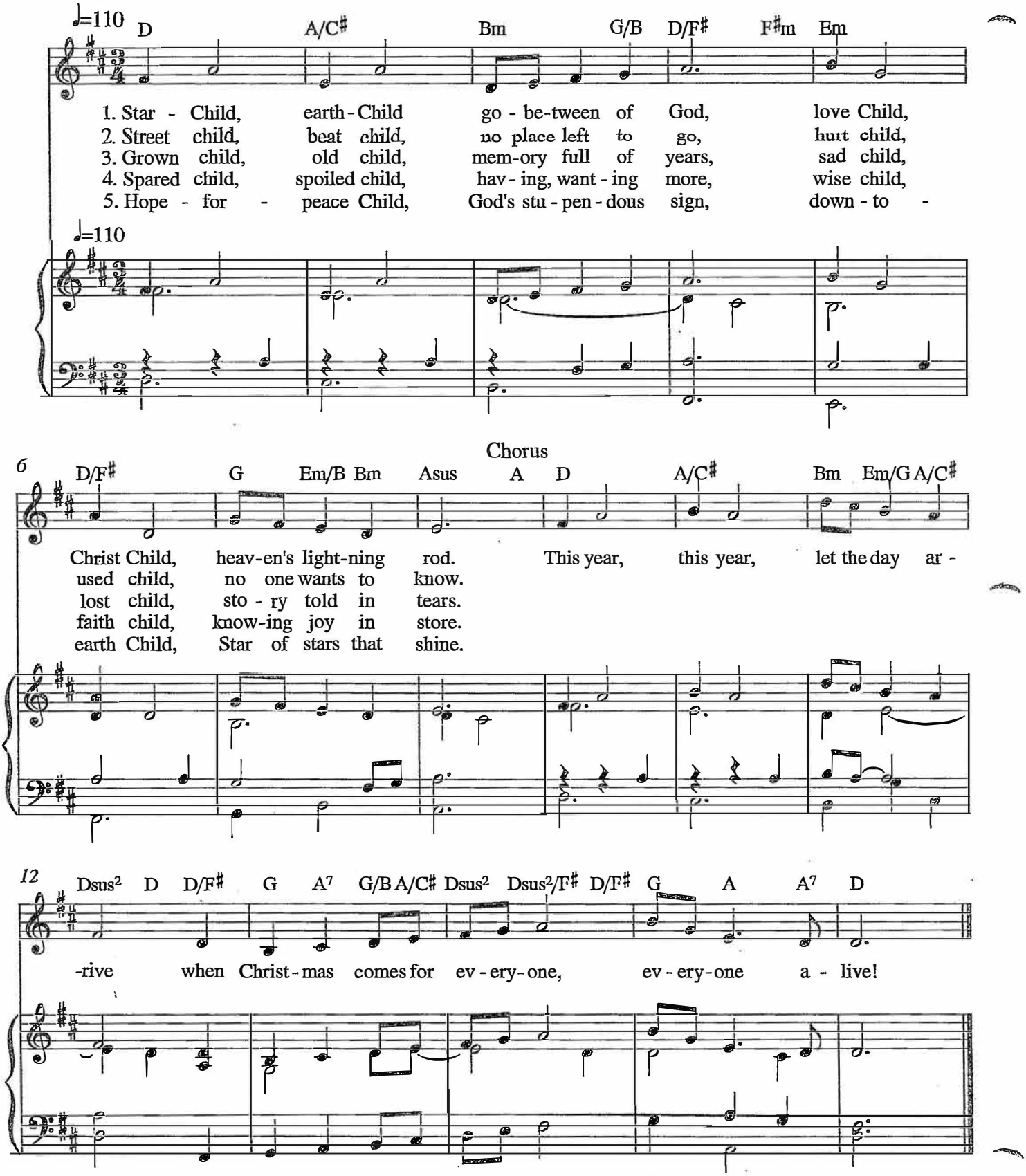
WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

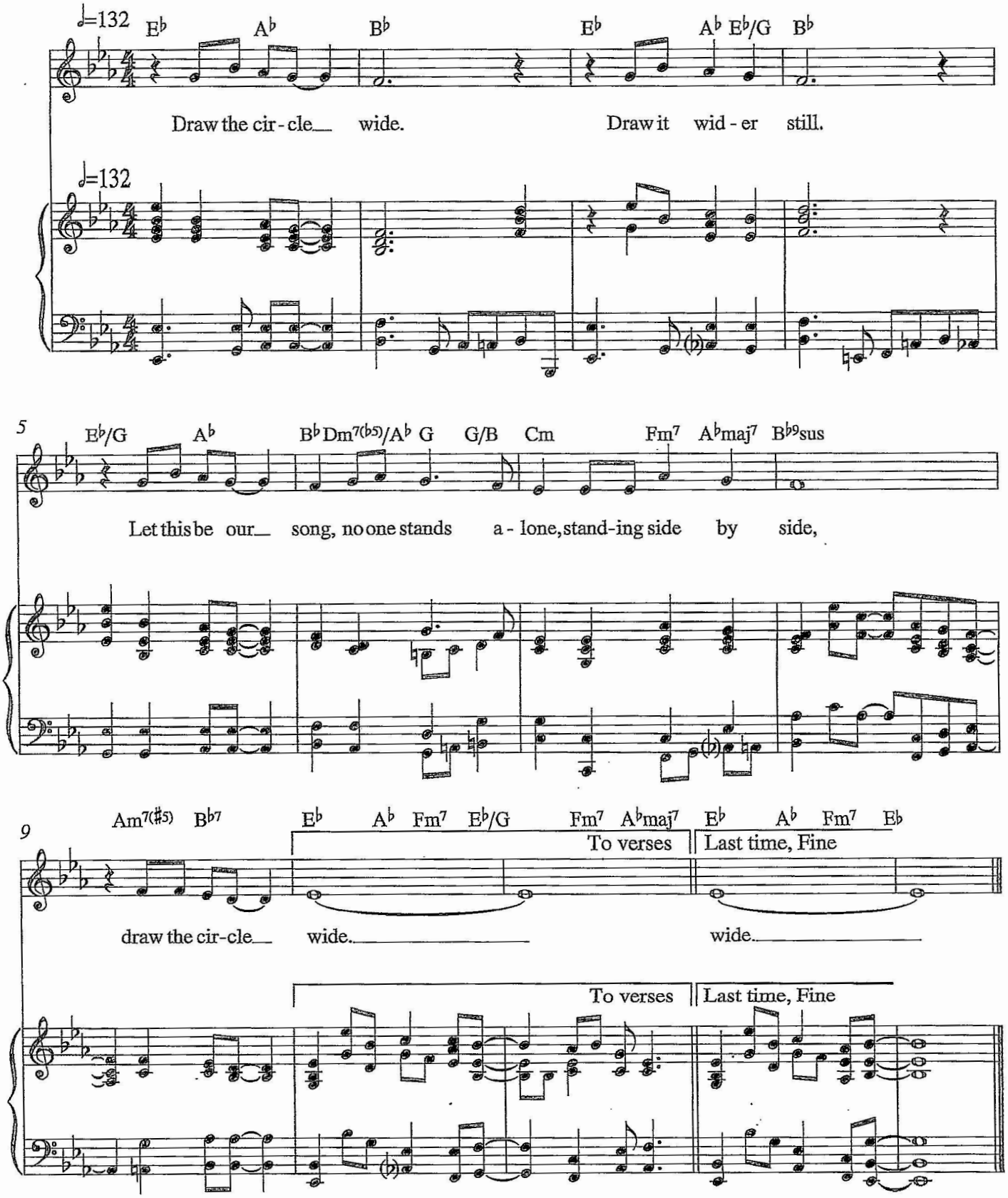
WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

174 Star-Child

♩=110
D A/C♯ Bm G/B D/F♯ F♯m Em
1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be-tween of God, love Child,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,
3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years, sad child,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -
♩=110
Chorus
6
D/F♯ G Em/B Bm Asus A D A/C♯ Bm Em/G A/C♯
Christ Child, heav-en's light-ning rod. This year, this year, let the day ar -
used child, no one wants to know.
lost child, sto - ry told in tears.
faith child, know-ing joy in store.
earth Child, Star of stars that shine.
12
Dsus² D D/F♯ G A⁷ G/B A/C♯ Dsus² Dsus²/F♯ D/F♯ G A A⁷ D
-rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

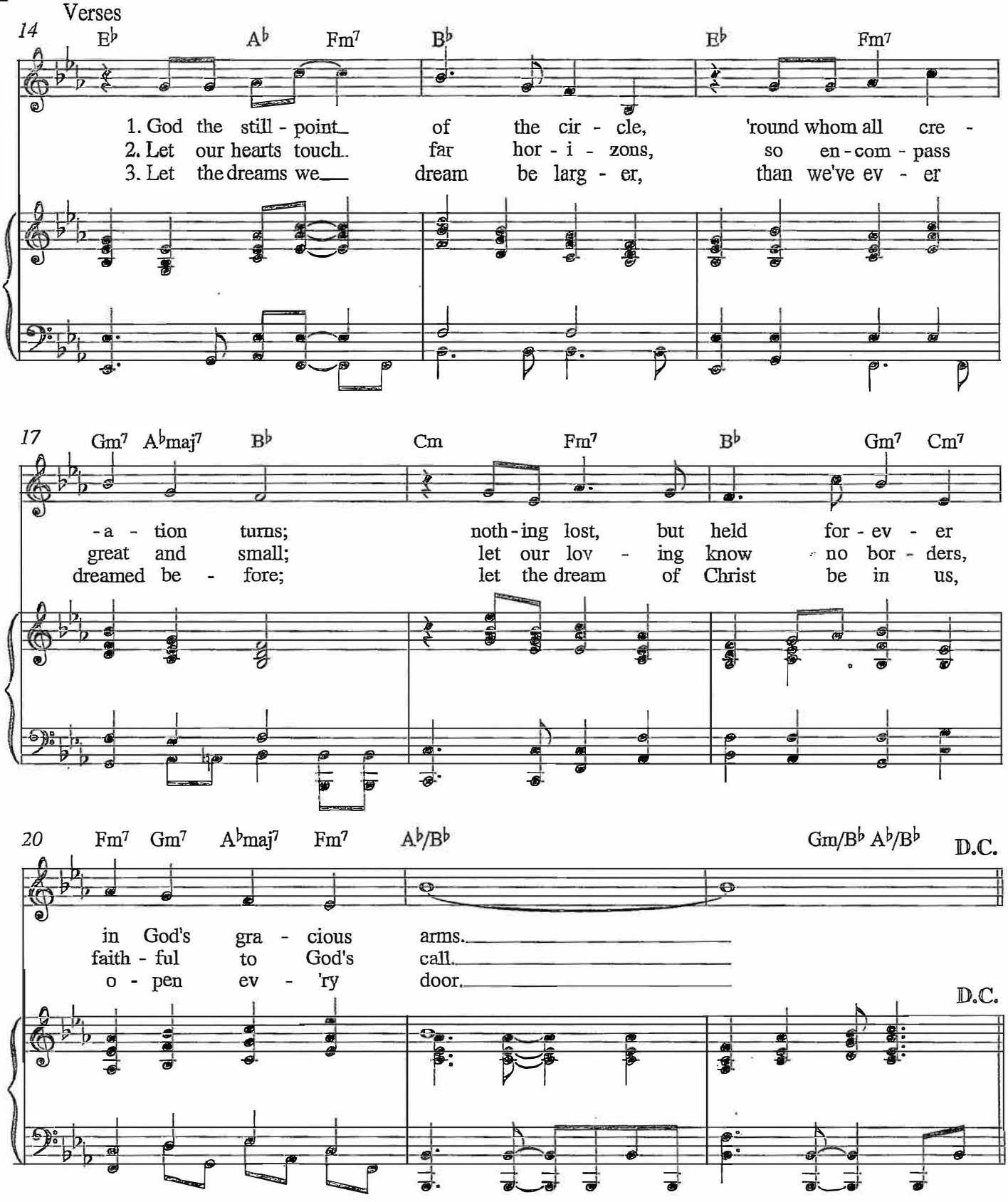
Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Copyright ©1992 Shirley Erena Murray
(Aotearoa New Zealand, Asia, & Australia) and rest of the world, Hope Publishing.
Music: Carlton R. Young, Copyright ©1994 Hope Publishing Co.Carol Stream, IL 60188.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1/2

Draw the Circle Wide

♩=132
E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭/G B♭
Draw the cir - cle wide. Draw it wid - er still.
♩=132
5
E♭/G A♭ B♭ Dm7(♭5)/A♭ G G/B Cm Fm7 A♭maj7 B♭9sus
Let this be our song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side,
9
Am7(♯5) B♭7 E♭ A♭ Fm7 E♭/G Fm7 A♭maj7 E♭ A♭ Fm7 E♭
To verses
Last time, Fine
draw the cir-cle wide. wide.
To verses
Last time, Fine

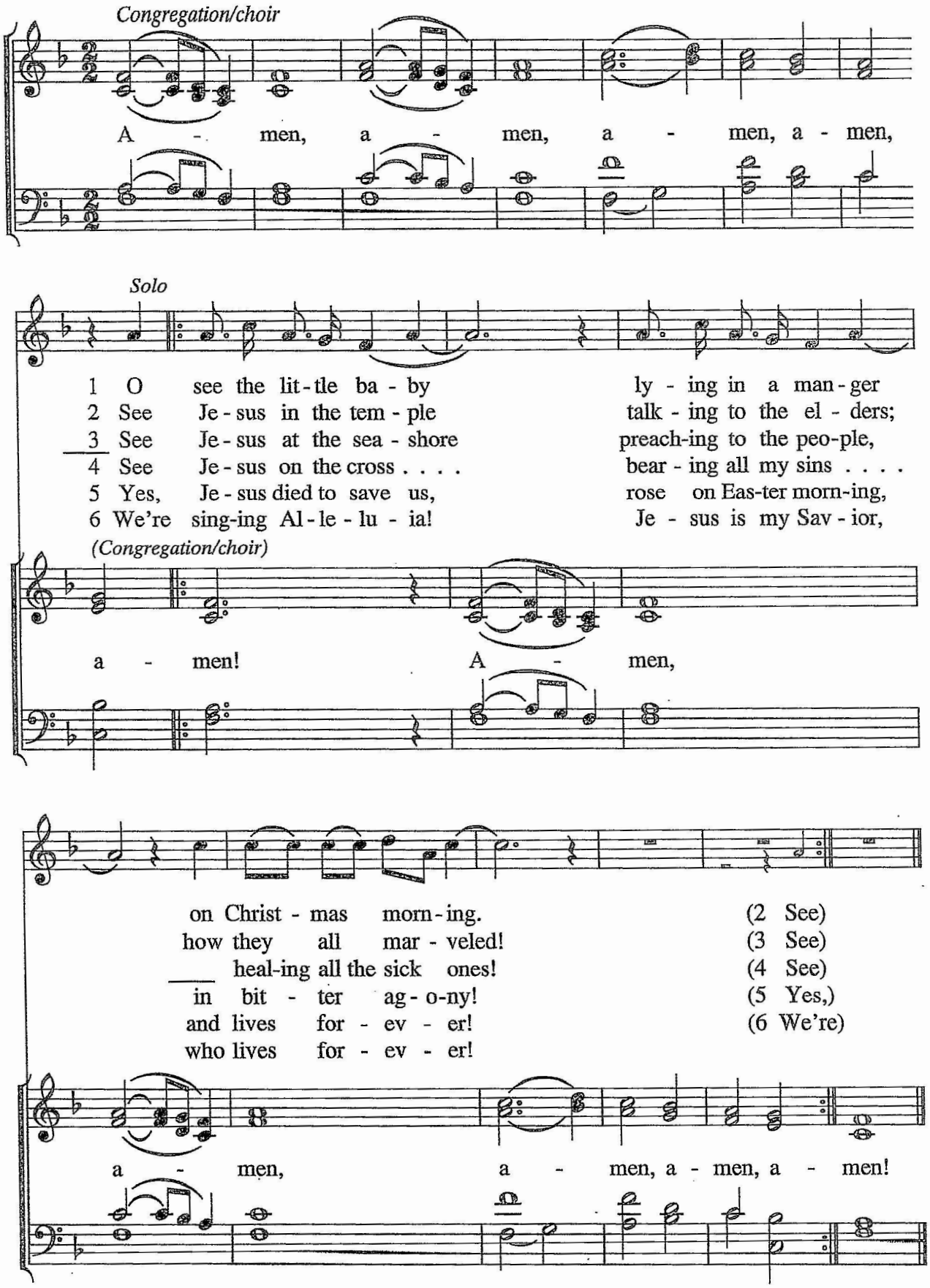
Words and Music: Gordon Light, Copyright ©1994 Common Cup Company, www.commoncup.com.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.
This arrangement: Michael Bloss, Copyright ©1998 Wood Lake Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Piano Arrangement: David Maxwell, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

2

Verses

14
E♭ A♭ Fm7 B♭ E♭ Fm7
1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
3. Let the dreams we dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er
17
Gm7 A♭maj7 B♭ Cm Fm7 B♭ Gm7 Cm7
- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but held for - ev - er
great and small; let our lov - ing know no bor - ders,
dreamed be - fore; let the dream of Christ be in us,
20
Fm7 Gm7 A♭maj7 Fm7 A♭/B♭ Gm/B♭ A♭/B♭ D.C.
in God's gra - cious arms.
faith - ful to God's call.
o - pen ev - 'ry door.
D.C.

Amen, Amen

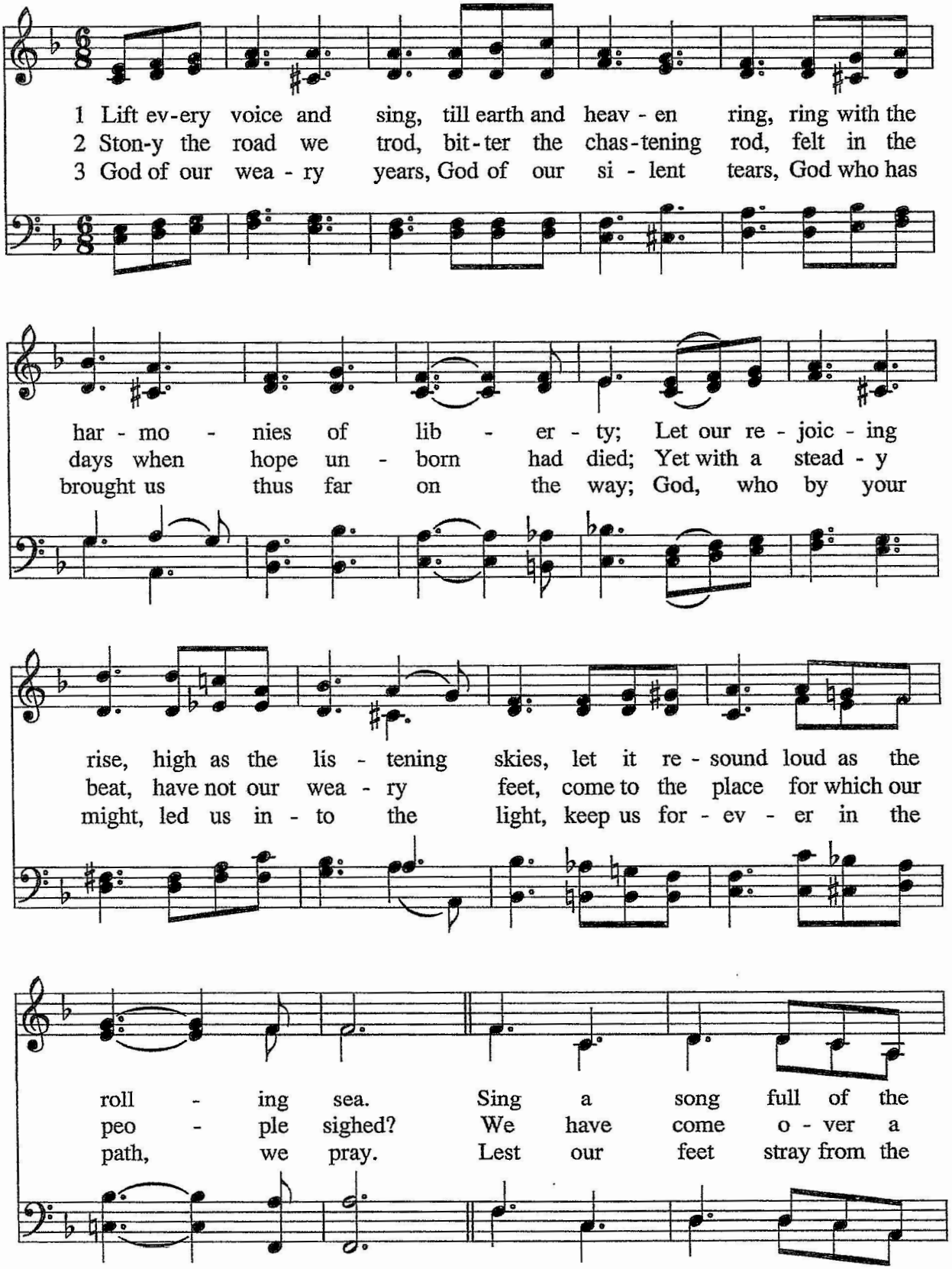
African-American spiritual

Mark 3:7–10; Luke 2:7, 46–47; Rom. 6:6–10

Congregation/choir
A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,
Solo
1 O see the lit-tle ba - by ly - ing in a man-ger
2 See Je-sus in the tem - ple talk - ing to the el - ders;
3 See Je-sus at the sea - shore preach-ing to the peo-ple,
4 See Je-sus on the cross . . . . bear - ing all my sins . . . .
5 Yes, Je-sus died to save us, rose on Eas-ter morn-ing,
6 We're sing-ing Al-le-lu - ia! Je - sus is my Sav - ior,
(Congregation/choir)
a - men! A - men,
on Christ - mas morn-ing. (2 See)
how they all mar - veled! (3 See)
___ heal-ing all the sick ones! (4 See)
in bit - ter ag-o-ny! (5 Yes,)
and lives for - ev - er! (6 We're)
who lives for - ev - er!
a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men!

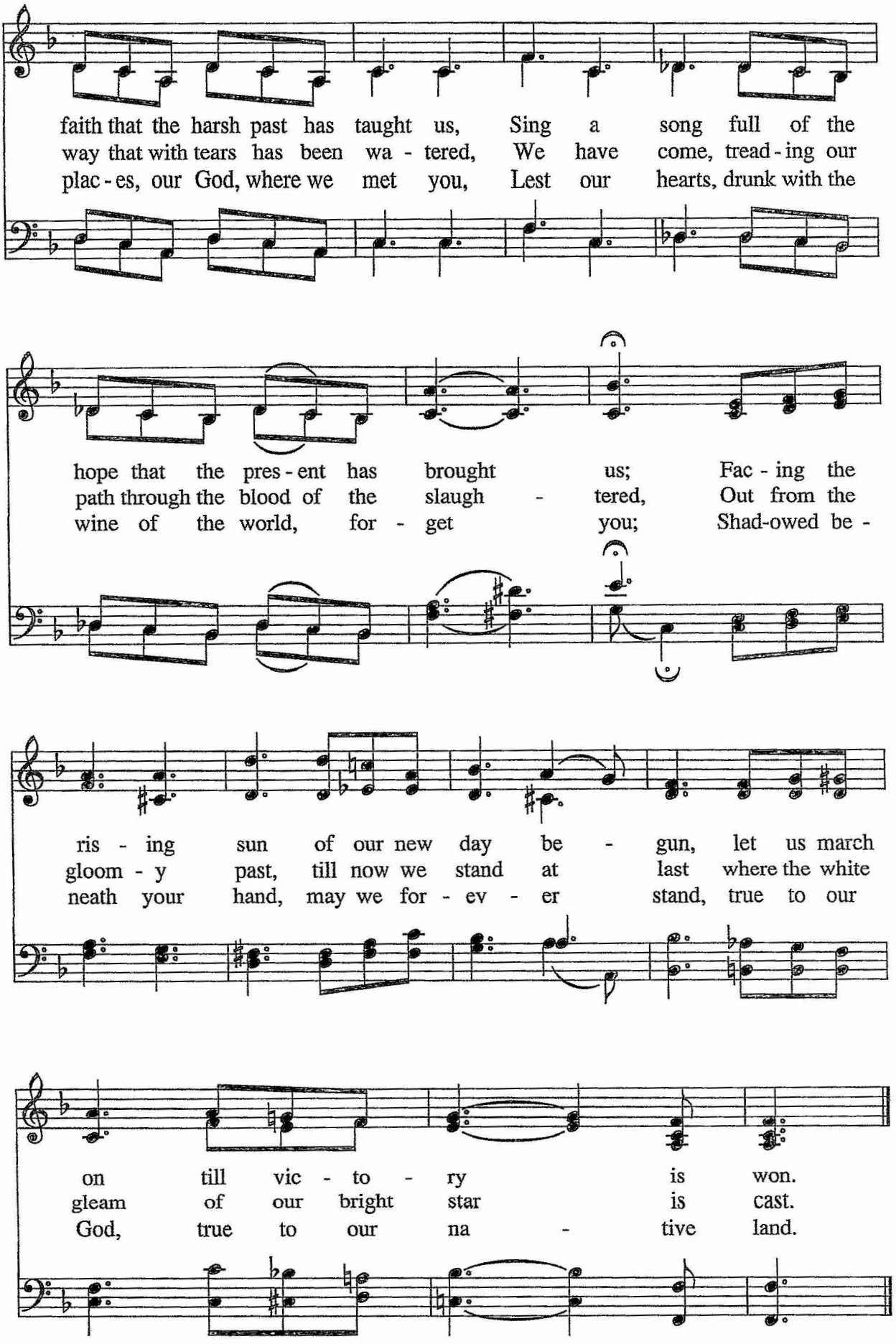
This is one of the many spirituals that found fame during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Its pattern of call-and-response allowed the lead singer to create new verses while those gathered sang the response of "Amen."

Tune: AMEN Irr.
African-American spiritual
Arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988

593 Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has
har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your
rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the
roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the
hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
wine of the world, for - get you; Shad-owed be -
ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our
on till vic - to - ry is won.
gleam of our bright star is cast.
God, true to our na - tive land.